• **Palimpsest**

• A parchment, etc. that has been written more than once, the previous texts having been imperfectly erased and remaining still partially visible.

• **Urban palimpsest**
  – A time-laden space with multiple layers
Capitoline Hill: sacredness of place
Edward Gibbon, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, 1776-1788*

- “It was at Rome, on the 15\textsuperscript{th} of October, 1764, as I sat musing amidst the ruins of the Capitol, while the bare-footed fryars were singing Vespers in the temple of Jupiter, that the idea of writing the decline and fall of the City first started to my mind.”
• **La Dolce Vita**
  • Federico Fellini (1960)

• What is the palimpsestal image in the opening scene?

• What story is being told about Rome and what tensions does it contain?
Rome and its tensions (for Livy, *Ab urbe condita*, and beyond)

- Palimpsest

- (Re)foundings

- Problems with greatness: **ambition** and **wealth** (*vice*)

- **Mores maiorum** and **exemplum virtutis**: ways of the ancestors and examples of virtue (**virtus**, pietas, gravitas / pudicitia)

- Public vs. private (gender issues)

- Conservative society: innovation through **accretion** / religious syncretism

- Growth through **incorporation** of others (tensions of a **multicultural**, **cosmopolitan** society: rape of the Sabines).

- Horace: *Graecia capta ferum victorem cepit et artes intulit agresti Latio*
Iron age cultures in central Italy, c. 1000-800 BC

- Development of “material culture”

-- Graves = “closed find deposits”
Latial hut urn from Rome
Etruscan hut urn from Vulci
Palatine Hill, hut post holes, mid-8th century BCE
Etruscan, Greek and Phoenician territories in 8th-6th centuries (orientalizing period in Etruscan art)
Golden fibula, Cerveteri, Regolini-Galassi Tomb, 650-40 BCE
- Etruscans (Rasenna), Etruria (Tuscany):
  - 750-500 BC period of expansion
  - **city states** built on hill tops (Cerveteri, Tarquinia, Veii)
  - **elite, aristocratic** culture (kings)
  - **economy**: wealth based on **mining** (iron and copper), **agriculture** and trade
- Etruscan **women** (relative freedom)
- **616-509 BC** Etruscan kings at Rome
- **474 BC** naval defeat by Greeks at Cumae
- **396 BC** Veii falls to Rome
Romans borrow many Etruscan features:

- **Fasces** and **lictors**, **curule chair**
- **Toga**
- **City planning** and road-building techniques [pomerium; cardo n-s / decumanus –e-w]
- **Architecture** (arch, temples, houses)
• “Mysterious” origins
• Etruscan language: **non-Indo-European**
• borrowed alphabet from Greeks in 8th century
• mainly short and formulaic inscriptions survive

• DNA analysis: some traces to Asia Minor (Turkey)
Etruscan religion

- Ritualistic, aristocratic, priestly (lucumones): “disciplina etrusca”

- Local gods adapted to Greek Pantheon
  - Tinia = Zeus/Jupiter—thunderbolt; Uni = Hera/Juno

- Heaven mapped onto earth / deterministic religion

- Divination / augury (interpreting the will of the gods): Interpretation of lightening, reading flight of birds; haruspicy (reading entrails of animals, especially sheep’s liver), portents

- Importance of the cult of ancestors, afterlife and necropoleis (cities of the dead)
  Etruscan lars (lord), whence Roman lares (ancestral guardian deities)
Tinia, 5\textsuperscript{th} century

--three types of thunderbolts:
  - warning
  - fear
  - destruction
Augur Vel Saties in toga picta,
c. 350 BCE, Vulci
Etruscan map of heavens
Liver of Piacenza (bronze), 3rd to 2nd century BCE
Aule Lecu, 2nd century BCE, Volterra
Etruscan votive offerings
Etruscan Cities of the Dead
Cerveteri, Banditaccia necropolis, 7\textsuperscript{th}-2\textsuperscript{nd} centuries BCE
Cerveteri, Banditaccia necropolis, 7th-2nd centuries BCE
Etruscan houses of the dead
Tomb of shields and chairs, Ceverteri, c. 520 BCE
Tomb of the Reliefs, Cerveteri, 4th century BCE
Tomb of Leopards, Tarquinia, c. 480 BCE
Greek symposium: Tomb of the Diver, Paestum, 480 BCE
Tomb of the Augurs, Tarquinia, 520 BC
Funereal games: augur with lituus
Torture of a prisoner: origins of gladiatorial games
Tomb of hunting and fishing, Tarquinia, c. 520-500 BCE
Tomb of the Diver (Greek), Paestum 480 BC
“Married couple” sarcophagus, Cerveteri, 520 circa, terracotta
Etruscan couple: 2nd century BCE, Volterra
LARS PULENA, EARLY SECOND CENTURY, Tarquinia